



NEWS RELEASE

CALIFORNIA STATE TREASURER PHIL ANGELIDES

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
September 23, 2004

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TREASURER ANGELIDES APPLAUDS NEW LAW TO PUT HYBRID VEHICLES IN THE "FAST LANE"

*Angelides Urges Governor Schwarzenegger to Push For
Federal Approvals Needed So Hybrids Can Cruise In Carpool Lanes*

SACRAMENTO, CA – California State Treasurer Phil Angelides today lauded the enactment of Assembly Bill 2628, a bill sponsored by Angelides that would open the State's carpool lanes to fuel-efficient hybrid and other advanced-technology vehicles. Angelides and the author of the bill, Assemblymember Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills), say the legislation, signed by Governor Schwarzenegger, will help clear California's air, boost the State's energy independence and cut greenhouse gas emissions. The bill was also sponsored by the California Environmental Protection Agency and the California Air Resources Board.

"The Governor's action today brings us a step closer to opening California's carpool lanes to the cleanest and most fuel efficient vehicles on the market, helping to clear the air, reduce our dependence on polluting fuels and save motorists precious dollars," Angelides said. "This effort comes at an especially important time, as gasoline prices are volatile and the need is growing to encourage automakers to make more hybrid and advanced-technology vehicles available to consumers."

AB 2628 will allow hybrid and other advanced-technology vehicles that meet tough emissions and fuel efficiency standards (45 miles per gallon or greater efficiency) access to California's high occupancy vehicle (HOV) lanes, or carpool lanes, regardless of the number of people in the vehicle. The new law takes full advantage of the available capacity in the State's HOV lanes while encouraging California motorists to use less fuel. Under the legislation, the hybrid vehicles eligible for HOV access today include the Honda Insight, Honda Civic Hybrid and Toyota Prius. As new hybrid and other advanced-technology vehicles are developed, they too will become eligible for HOV access if they meet the strictest emissions and fuel efficiency standards.

The new state law will take effect only after the federal government acts to approve the use of HOV lanes by hybrid vehicles. Federal authorizing legislation is now included in a pending surface transportation funding bill. (Federal approval is required because federal funds are used in the construction of HOV lanes.)

"I urge governor Schwarzenegger to call upon the Bush Administration and Congress to grant the federal approvals necessary to make today's law a reality in California," Angelides said. "I look forward to working with the Governor to get the job done."